
The DX Bulletin

ISSUE 119 DECEMBER 7, 1981

NOTE: Issue 118 was mailed Friday, Nov 27, and was delayed (again) in the Postal "Service." This issue will be mailed Friday, Dec 4. See page 4.

PROPAGATION: Dec 6, High Normal; Dec 7, High/Low Normal; Dec 8, 9, Below Normal; Dec 10, 11, High/Low Normal; Dec 12, Low Normal; Dec 13, High Normal; Dec 14, 15, Low Normal; Dec 16-19, High Normal; TNX N4XX and KH6BZF.

1981 CQ Worldwide CW Contest:

Another Record-Breaker!

And how. Just as sunrise and sunset periods have the most interesting propagation each day, it seems that 1981, a transition year in the Sunspot Cycle, may have had the best contest weekend ever. It is not unusual for the CQ Phone weekend the end of October to have sterling conditions only to be followed by a mediocre CW weekend a month later, but this was surely not the case in 1981.

We have reports that the multi-multi alltime record was broken by W2PV and K1ZZ, among others, the new multi-single record is now held by the crew at Kentucky's N4AR, and a number of single-operator entries smashed the old record in that category.

The prevailing opinion of several knowledgeable locals is that not only does CW activity on the bands appear to be on the upswing, but also that the general level of operating is higher than it has been in recent years. Your editor, in 24 hours of operating with a kilowatt, tribander, and the Murphy's Marauders' contest repeater, managed to work 364 contacts including 114 band-zones and 302 band-countries. As another example, the W2PV multi-multi had 1000+ contacts on 40-10 Meters and 100+ countries on each of those four bands.

Some highlights of the Contest follow:

Having spoken to Tom Gallagher, N6RA, shortly before he left for Corsica, we looked for him over the weekend but it was Sunday before we found FCØFOO. Tom said he had been delayed by 100 mph winds the day before. The following Tuesday, those same winds were responsible for a tragic plane crash, killing 160 Yugoslavs coming into Corsica. The airfield on Corsica is judged "unsafe" by the International Pilots Association. Tom says he'll go back next year.

Gus Browning, W4BPD, was worked by many from the Bahamas. Gus is purportedly now underway on a long-term cruise and should be showing from his second spot soon. Gus seemed to hear us calling just as well as he ever did.

UK1PGO on Franz Josef Land was worked on 15 Meters by many, on 20 by not quite as many, and even on 40 Meters by a handful of the Big Guns. Good signal on the higher bands, excellent operator.

Curacao was represented by not one but two stations: P41E (multi-multi, QSL to K4BAI) and also K3SA/PJ3. Not far away was KF1V signing P47A from Sint Maarten.

Anyone needing Bear Island surely snagged SP2BHZ on 20 or 15 Meters; Andy, radio operator for a polar expedition (Issue 118) also seems to be a competent CW man.

At TDXB, not only did we listen and talk to the MM contest repeater, we also kept in touch with several of the locals on 2 Meters...this was an entirely new experience for us and turned out to be a lot of fun. We were able to find and sic a few of the locals onto such goodies as 9V1TK on 15, N6BT/AHØ on several bands, and HC8MD on the Low Bands.

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Another new dimension to contesting for us on this weekend was trying to work the max number of multipliers without calling "CQ." England was country number 70 for us on 20 Meters, out of 82 finally found on that band. We only worked Switzerland on one band (40). The couple of times we called "CQ" trying to get some of this garden variety stuff into the log, we created a pileup of everything already worked!

More good stuff...N6NI operated from Kuwait as 9K2DX (QSL N6TR) and we found him on two bands. The No Cal DX Club's ZK2RU operation could be had on at least five bands. It would not be surprising to find N6ZV's FMØGA score the top one worldwide, as he was everywhere and was concentrating on working more than just W/VE.

Good prefix practice provided by V3MS (VP1) and V2AAW (VP2A). J6LZA was operated by (and QSL to) WA6VEF. FRØGGL was on, too, but not /E. Several times he was heard saying his location was Reunion. HZ1HZ was his usual loud self, but seemed to be going faster this time and was much easier for us (at least) to work. Good!

In our somewhat brief time we managed to work all the Russian DXCC countries except UA2, UJ8 and UM8. A few CQs would probably have turned up these in short order. We did get nineteen countries on five bands (80-10) and another twelve on four bands. Our 40 and 80 Meter aeriels are nothing to write home about, either.

Zones? We missed four of them: Zone 2 VO2 (choke), zone 12 (Chile), Zone 23 (JT and UAØY and we heard there was a JT on 20), and Zone 26 (HS, XZ). XZ5A was on (and worked) by some but won't count for the multiplier since it does not count for DXCC. YB8AEG showed from Zone 28 but was too slow and couldn't handle the 20 Meter pileup, but P29PS did provide Zone 28 in fine style on 10 and 15.

Just how good were the bands? Well, not as good as the past two years, at least not on the US East Coast. 10 and 15 didn't stay open to Asia as late in the evening as they used to, and they did not open to Europe as early...we

have been watching 10 Meters especially over the last three years, and the JA stations seem to be losing about 10 dB of strength per year. In 1978, we saw some October JA signals at 30 dB over S9, then 20 over in 1979, maybe 15 over last year, and averaging around +5 dB this year. While this continuing drop does not hurt the DXer's chances of working countries, the contesteer loses an entire layer of contacts for each of these drops.

Quirky openings you want? No problem there, as they still exist for those willing to ignore their Second Op and point the antenna where the Sun isn't shining. VK6HD in Zone 29 was coming through on 10 Meters at 0130Z, but only if you pointed your beam due south from Connecticut. Exactly the same time found 4S7MX on 15, true long path. There was long path on 40, too, with VUs, DUs, and Yahoos around sunrise in the States. (I knew it was l.p. by rotating my vertical -ed).

1AØKM was very active on 10, 15, and 20 from SMOM, the first concentrated CW activity from there we know of.

The usual disappointments, like KC4USV only being on one band (15) were made up for by pleasant surprises...we got SU1AA on three bands. And the really good stuff was there: 9U5WR on 15, A4XJO on several bands, J28DM the last hour on 20. Shucks, this is just some of the stuff heard by one fairly modest station. You know there was plenty more. We only worked 113 different DXCC countries on all the bands, but there were in excess of 150 on if you could find them.

That's about it for this contest wrap-up. It isn't quite as extensive as the one we did for the October CQ Phone Contest, mainly because there just weren't as many expeditions on for the CW weekend. We sure had fun chasing countries, though, and talking to the locals on vhf during the weekend. And our brand-new wastebasket under the operating desk did not pick up a single dent the entire weekend...we had to buy a new one after trying to get on the FB8WG list a few weeks ago!

This CW contest was a marvelous vacation from the day-to-day garbage on the 'phone bands. Cheaper than a 'shrink, too.

BANDPASS: Call/Frequency/UTC (plus West, Central, East Coast report)/Date

A71AD 28595 15E 26	H44SH 14222 12W 24	T32AF 28027 22E 24	4U1UN 14206 16E 26
A9XP 28581 14E 23	H44SH 28562 00E 24	UA1PAM 14002 17W 24	5B4JE 14225 15W 24
A9XDO 14207 12E 27	JZ5CZE 3501 11E 27	(F.J.L.)	5H3TM 28505 18E 24
A9XDO 14207 14W 27	JD1BAX 28570 23W 24	UH8EAA 28026 14E 27	5T5RR 28505 23W 24
CN8CY 7003 21E 26	J28DL 28604 18E 24	UM8MBA 14011 03E 26	5Z4CS 21029 22E 25
CN8CX 28026 16E 27	JY5YK/OD 28035 14E 26	VK0AN 14332 10E 24	7Q7LW 21292 19E 26
EA9GK 14021 01E 23	OY2J 7005 10E 26	VS6DO 3503 12E 23	9G1RF 21320 18E 29
EA9JV 28510 17W 26	KF1V/PJ7 21025 23E 23	ZC4YC 28018 14E 27	9J2CJ 21289 19E 24
HF0POL 21035 01E 23	P29PS 28024 23E 27	ZD7BW 21292 23E 24	9J2BO 28576 17W 24
(S. Shetlands)	SV1JG 7010 23E 23	ZD8NED 21370 00E 26	9M2FR 21370 00E 27
HF0POL 14028 02E 25	TL8RC 14221 16W 26	ZL4OY/A 14214 11E 27	9U5WR 14028 19E 24
HF0POL 14035 00W 26	TL8RC 7005 05E 27	3B8AS 14232 15W 26	9U5WR 21030 18W 25
HC8MD 3502 04E 24	TL8DC 28608 15E 27	4K1GM 14026 17W 25	
HL1SF 7008 09E 26	TU2JJ 14205 00W 26	(S. Shetlands)	

W1/W2/W3: please mail reports by Monday

All others: please mail reports by Sunday TDXB: 203-871-6251

FB8WG Crozet is off the air until about January 1, due to his "work schedule."

DL1VU, due in the Pacific sometime this month, has added ZK1 N. Cooks, ZM7 Tokelau, and YJ8 New Hebrides to his first planned stop, VK9 Norfolk. He likes CW.

No new word on a January Bouvet operation by Germans (Issue 116). This is the expedition seeking 36K dollars before leaving.

Spanish operation from Albania reportedly postponed until at least January. We saw an interesting set of statistics the other day...Albania has only 2.7 physicians per 1,000 people, and only 27 teachers, but 41 soldiers. They also have zero radio amateurs.

In honor of the current meeting of the Organization of American States on St. Lucia, station J6OAS is active on all bands, primarily 'phone. If you work them on three bands, send log data, your complete name and address, and one dollar to J6LT for a special award. The station will be on until Dec 12.

S42A is supposed to be active Dec 4-6 from new African homeland "Ciskei." QSL data to be given over the air, per ZS2RM.

DJ6SI's recent Africa activity was confined to TJ1GH, from which he made 8K QSOs.

ZL4OY is now active from Campbell Is, as predicted, and can be found mostly on 20 SSB around 10-11Z. VK0AN Macquarie is a regular on 14332 at 1000Z Tuesdays.

JY7AF is KB7UI, just getting set up in Jordan. QSL via WB9UWF.

LU3ZY Carlos' tour at the S. Sandwich scientific station has been extended until about Dec 20. He is stranded there, frozen in, and sometimes has 120 mph winds to hamper activities. WA2VUY handles a list for Carlos Sundays and Tuesdays at 2355Z on 14240, and Carlos shows whenever possible. WA2VUY asks that when you send the QSL to LU2CN, to mail a duplicate to WA2VUY for Carlos to have for his personal collection.

VK9ZG is leaving Willis in a couple of weeks, but not to worry...VK9ZH replaces him immediately.

TDXB is sponsoring (paying for) a plaque in the 1982 ARRL International DX Competition... it will be awarded to the W/VE single-operator making the highest combined phone and CW multiplier (country) total. We hope you agree that this is in the real spirit of DX Contesting.

CALENDAR

Svalbard SP2BHZ/JW on NOW; I 118
 Pacific DL1VU in December; I 119
 Galapagos HC8MD 160-6 M through Dec 15
 Crozet FB8WG off the air until Jan 1
 Mauritius By K4YT through Dec 8

Taiwan BV2A/B now on 15 Meters; I 117
 Seychelles By K4YT Dec 9-16
 S. Sandwich LU3ZY extended tour; I 119
 Jamaica 6YØ by NØTG, NØWL, Dec 10-17
 Chatham ZL1AZV/C Dec 15-23

Cayman Is ZF2FK by WD9IIC Dec 18-26
 Swaziland W6YB/3D6 Dec 24-31
 Monaco CW Dec 24-Jan 2; I 119
 Angola OK3TAB/D2 Jan 3-Apr 1
 Albania Postponed until 1982; I 108, 119

Bouvet January? I 116

CONTRIBUTORS

K4YT, W8JXM, WING, W6AM, W1JTI, W1WDD,
 WA2VUY, WB2VCI, K3NN, KC8BF, WB1EAZ,
 KA1BU, W4VQ, KA1KD, WB8ZRL, W1VV, K6IR,
 KAØE, KB8KW, W2HAZ, WD5AAM, KK6X, WØBW,
 VE1BNN, KØCVD, WDØEAO, NIACH.

This one looks real...a Monaco CW-only expedition by PAØLVB, PAØVDV, and PAØWRS, Dec 24-January 2. Hoping they have better luck than they had when scheduled last July!

Look for 7Q7LW 28510 after 1530Z and 14190 after 1700Z, plus 21290 around 18-1900Z.


YI1BGD reportedly showing on 20 SSB some evenings; YI1AS also has been worked 28510 (by Europeans). Claims to be ex-STØAS, ragchewer.

TDXB will publish a special year-end issue for you. Judging from the treatment we are getting from the Postal "Service" lately, we probably should have published it in October...

K4YT has had little luck during his in-progress African travels. Latest is that in Zambia letters he had written before departure got nowhere, and he was unable to find any of the British locals there. He was in Tanzania the week before Thanksgiving but unable to obtain a license. Karl is due in the Seychelles this week, but the recent coup attempt there may cause him to go directly to an alternate spot.

FCC has granted a permit for another Woodpecker...located at the University of Alaska, 10 kW, 0.25-20 MHz. "The authorized band shall be swept through in a period of 30 seconds and not more often than 15 times per hour." Send your SWL cards to FAA 5th Regional Office, PO BOX 440, Anchorage AK 99510.

Thank you for being so patient about our continuing woes with the Postal "Service." TDXB spent two full days this week trying to deal with them, apparently a futile effort. The newspaper rate enables us to hold our subscription rates constant as postal costs escalate. If you'd like to complain, TDXB's U.S. Congressman is Sam Gejdensen, PO BOX 2000, Norwich, CT 06360. Again, thanks.


 CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
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November 24, 1981

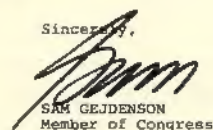
Mr. James D. Cain
 306 Vernon Avenue
 Vernon, Connecticut 06066

Dear Mr. Cain:

Thank you for contacting my office concerning your problem with the Hartford Post Office.

I have been assured by postal officials that they will attempt to avoid any recurrence of the situation. However, should your mailing go astray again please contact my District Aide, Bob Jenkins, and we will again investigate the matter.

Sincerely,


 SAM GEJDENSEN
 Member of Congress

SG:bj